

I am available for any parishioner who needs me. My mobile number is 07554427063. Please feel free to contact me to have a chat or to have prayers or a mass said for someone.

Feb 6th– 13th

Sat: 6th

Sat: 6th Cole Family's ints

Sun: 7th Beth Monaghan RIP

Sun: 7th

Mon: 8th

Tue: 8th

Wed: 10th

Thur: 11th Grainne Conlan RIP

Fri: 12th

Sat: 13th

Public Mass
Sat Eve 6pm Wantage
Sunday 9am Wantage
Sunday 11am Lambourn

Tue 10am
Fri 10am
Booking essential

Weekdays 10am on Zoom



In your prayers, please remember all who have recently died especially Beth Monaghan. Also pray for all who are sick, in hospital or housebound especially Pete Gray, Sybil Murphy, Margaret Joyce, Peter Shaw, Wendy Purslow, Sue Maher, Cedric Andrews, and all those suffering during this pandemic. Please contact the office if you would like someone to be added to our sick list.

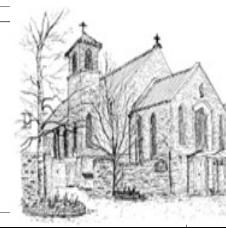
Lenten Retreat: 'Finding Hope in Scripture' for everyone. Every Monday evening during Lent, for 6 weeks, we will discover aspects of the virtue of hope from 6 different Bible passages, so that we may grow in hope in these difficult times, and find ways to share our hope with others. Our reflection will be followed by a time of live-streamed adoration and Compline with the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph. Register here to participate: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZEtc-2grjkiGtU8vPFJea2ktvR5U0MZ1mrL>

Collections Thank You

If you would like to continue supporting the Church through the period of close-down your weekly/ monthly offering can be made online using this name and account number: **PRCDT Wantage St John Vianney Sort Code: 30-93-04 Account Number: 01720016 Account Name: PRCDTR Wantage St. John Vianney.** Please remember that you can always drop your donation into the Presbytery letterbox. Same Account for Wantage and Lambourn



St John Vianney Wantage Sacred Heart Lambourn



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2021 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year B



A Matter of Life and Death

Now more than ever in living memory we are all consumed by the need to stay well and to keep our friends and family well too. It's great news that our scientists have come up with a vaccine that will eventually help beat Covid. It's great news that we now have developed the means to save thousands of lives. Surely if Jesus was around today in person, he would give those scientists a big pat on the back. But perhaps Jesus would have something to add. A vaccine might save us from getting ill and dying, but it cannot add to our lives. Our bodies are merely vehicles in which to get us through life. It is important to look after a vehicle, but what greater point is there in looking after a vehicle that isn't heading anywhere? What we do with our lives is more important than how long we can stay fit and well, however important that is to us as humans.

Jesus behaves unexpectedly in today's gospel. Having cured Simon's mother in law, the whole town turns up at his door eager for miracle cures, and Jesus obliges. This it would seem is his golden opportunity. This is his chance to have everybody eating out of the palm of his hand. Instead, Jesus gets up early and goes off to a deserted place, and when Simon comes looking for him, Jesus suggests that instead of returning to his new found fans, that they move on to the next village. This might seem odd to many, but it is to become apparent that curing the sick was not top of Jesus' agenda.

To achieve anything in this world our health of course is important, but Jesus didn't heal people simply to promote some health and fitness regime. Healing was only part of his primary ministry to teach. Jesus' healing miracles were signs of his identity and of God's power and compassion. His acts of healing were often to teach the importance of faith and discipleship.

Saint Bernadette made a prayer that we could do well to adopt. She said "Lord, I do not ask that I never be afflicted, but only that you never abandon me in affliction."

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for February 2021

In his February message, the Pope asks for society to protect women who are the victims of violence. Although at least 155 countries have approved domestic violence laws and 140 have legislation regarding workplace sexual harassment, to give two examples, this does not mean that these laws always conform to international norms and recommendations, nor that they are applied and enforced. This month Pope Francis invites us to join in his prayer “... **for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded by all.**”

World Day of the Sick 11th February 2021

In his world message for World Day of the Sick Pope Francis concludes:- “The commandment of love that Jesus left to his disciples is also kept in our relationship with the sick. A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned.”



Our Lady of Lourdes 11th February

Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and healing, but even more of faith. Church authorities have recognized over 60 miraculous cures, although there have probably been many more. To people of faith this is not surprising. It is a continuation of Jesus' healing miracles—now performed at the intercession of his mother. Some would say that the greater miracles are hidden. Many who visit Lourdes return home with renewed faith and a readiness to serve God in their needy brothers and sisters.



St. Josephine Bakhita 8th February Day of Prayer for the Prevention of Human Trafficking.

Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad. Almost every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims. Trafficking is when a

person is recruited or transported or harboured, by means of threat or coercion for the purpose of exploitation. The easiest thing we can do to combat trafficking and slavery is to be conscientious consumers.

Dates for you Diary:

Taize Prayer Evening Sunday 28th March 5pm on Zoom

The Readings of Lent for the Year of Mark Tuesdays in Lent 7pm–7.30pm on Zoom.



Travels with my bro....

Not to gloat but we love being in the south of Spain. Portugal has its charms but Spain is special. Not just that the food and wine is delicious but the sun is shining and the warm water is a treat. I hear that the weather at home is not too good. I've never liked snow. It looks lovely for about ten minutes when it first falls but then it becomes a nuisance. H&S means that I spend hours spreading grit and shovelling. When I see a snowman he has a clipboard asking if I've followed the bad weather guidelines. Now that Br.M is with me I can delegate such tasks. Br.P was never good at such work. His little legs didn't give him stamina. Jesus got it right when he sent his disciples out in pairs. He knew some would be skilled and others no so much. The gift of shovelling snow must be up there with the other charisms. Our journey has taken a little detour this week. We paddled along to Sanlucar de Barrameda and then we have started up the Guadalquivir river to Seville. I have always wanted to visit Seville. The Guadalquivir river is the only great navigable river in Spain. Its name comes from the Arabic, wadi al-kabir, meaning “great river”, and it is 408 miles long. Currently it is navigable from the Gulf of Cadiz to Seville but in Roman times it was navigable to Cordoba which we hope to visit too. Livy in his great History of the Romans mentions the river with the Romans having settled in Seville by the second century. Did you know that the first trip around the world left from Seville? In 1519, Ferdinand Magellan sailed with his ships to Sanlucar de Barrameda and from there, to the open sea, to circumnavigate the Earth. I feel his sense of adventure. I may get around the world if the Pandemic doesn't end soon. Seville is said to be the birthplace of flamenco and I have phoned ahead to sign Br.M up for a private lesson. He doesn't know yet but he will be dancing at a local competition. First prize is a case of local wine so the pressure is on to perform. I was a little worried that we might get lost going inland but as quick as a flash and with some Cambridge aplomb Br M remarked that we could use the *Tabula Peutingeriana* or *Pliny's map* both of which he had in his satchel. The Tabula is an example of a 5th Century Roman Road Map. He never ceases to amaze me! With all this excitement all I can do is to sing one of the pop songs from my youth by Chris de Burgh, Spanish Train. It has the lines “There's a Spanish train that runs between Guadalquivir and old Saville, And at dead of night the whistle blows, and people hear she's running still...And then they hush their children back to sleep, Lock the doors, upstairs they creep, For it is said that the souls of the dead Fill that train ten thousand deep!! Strange what you remember when hungry. Where is the nearest tapas shop? More next week God Bless.